(c) what was the revenue earned by these two media by way of advertising or otherwise in connection with the Reliance World Cricket Cup matches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Expenditure was incurred by Akashvani and Doordarshan on Reliance Cup cricket matches by their various All India Radio stations and Doordarshan Kendras in booking of commentators telephone lines and video and audio circuits etc. This information is not being maintained in a compiled form.

(b) Since there are a large number of Stations/Kendras in the network of All India Radio/Doordarshan the amount spent by these large number of stations/kendras on sports events is not maintained in a compiled form in respect of AIR/Doordarshan.

(c) The Gross revenue earned by All India Radio by securing advertisement for the Reliance Cup Matches is Rs. 30—42 lakhs and that by Doordarshan is Rs. 5.79 crores.

Import of Pulses

2192. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the rising trends in the price level of pulses, Government propose to import pulses from Australia and New Zealand;

(b) the quantum of pulses imported from each of the above countries during the last one year; and

(c) to what extent the price of pulses in the country are stable due to imports?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Import of pulses is allowed under Open General Licence subject to registration of contracts with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED). However, in view of the prevailing drought situation and rising trend in prices, NAFED and State Trading Corporation of India have been asked to import pulses for augmenting the supplies in the country.

During the financial year 1986-87, contracts for import of 1,17,255 tonnes of pulses from Australia and 19,268 tonnes of pulses from New Zealand were registered with NAFED. During the financial year 1987-88 (upto October 1987), contracts for 47,615 tonnes of pulses from Australia and 19.432 tonnes of pulses from New Zealand have been registered with NAFED. Contracts entered into by NAFED for import of pulses from Australia amounted to 2110 tonnes during the financial year 1987-88 (upto October 1987). Details of actual imports during the last one year have not become available.

(c) The impact of import on prices of individual pulses would depend on several factors including the quantum of imports the prices at which they are imported, etc. In the last ten weeks ending 7.11.1987, the wholesale price index of the subgroup of pulses has remained steady.

Allegation by the President of FAI

2193. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent

press reports regarding the allegations made by the President of the Fertilizer Association of India (FAI) blaming the Central Government for landing the fertilizer industry on the threshold of sickness; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the allegations and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main allegations and our reaction thereto are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

(1) *High level of imports during the last three years* :

To ensure timely and adequate availability of fertilizers the annual import of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers is planned in advance so as to bridge the gap between estimated requirement under normal weather conditions and likely availability. To protect the interests of the farmers, supply of fertilizers is planned on the principle of 'no shortages—minimum over-supply'.

Due to unfavourable weather conditions during the last 3 years in a row, fertilizer consumption has been below the targetted levels. Therefore, notwithstanding the scaling down of imports ordered during 1986-87. to the extent possible the stocks of fertilizers have gone up. At present, there is excess availability of fertilizers in the country due to low consumption caused by long, very severe and widespread drought conditions in many parts of the country.

It may be stated that imports during the last 3 years have shown a downward trend as may be seen from the following table:—

Year	Total Fertilizer Imports
	(Nutrients)
1984-85	35.24 lakh tonnes
1985-86	33.29 lakh tonnes
1986-87	22.82 lakh tonnes

(2) *Cut in the ECA allocations leading the companies to hold back 40 per cent of the consumption*:

The supply of fertilizers is regulated under the Essential Commodities Act to adequately meet the assessed requirement of fertilizers. A reasonable over-supply to the extent of 10 per cent of the assessed requirement is built into the system so as to provide for the pipeline requirement. Releasing of stocks over and above the assessed requiremnt is not considered to be desirable.

(3) *Rebates and discounts between Rs. 400 crores and Rs. 600 crores given by the manufacturing units*:

The consumer price of fertilizer is statuarily controlled by the Government so that the farmers can get fertilizers at the notified prices. It was observed that some manufacturers were resorting to higher margins/discounts. This aberration in the marketing terms and conditions escalated the discounts to a high level, leading to avoidable losses. Government has already taken steps to stabilise the fertilizer retail prices. It may be stated that to provide relief to the indigenous industry imported fertilizers are not released for sale. as far as possible, so long as the indigenous stocks can meet the demand.